

From: JPUOTILA--VCH0021A Date and time 29.09.93 17:49:00
To: SCARLSON--VCH0021A Stig Carlson

From: Johan Puotila
To : Stig Carlson
Subject: Tobacco Law/Sweden

Stig,

MRS and I today met with Mr. Tiedemann and Mr. Ekstrom from the Conservative Party organisation. Mr. Tiedemann is responsible for social issues incl. tobacco within the party.

We discussed the status of the Tobacco Act amendment and presented our argumentation when it comes to issues like trade marks, advertising and workplace smoking.

It is obvious that the Ministry of Health is currently preparing an amendment proposal. This they however do without liaising with the other Government parties. This annoys the Conservatives. We noticed that the National Health Institute and some other anti-tobacco organisations are having a press conference on October 8, where the Deputy Health Minister Mr. Konberg "will present the Government's plans to amend the Tobacco Act". This disturbed Mr. T and Mr. E very much as no such plans have yet been discussed and agreed upon. They said they would look into this very thoroughly.

I presented to them parts of the Finnish Tobacco Act amendment proposal, showing that in the motivations the Finnish Ministry of Health uses totally incorrect information when it comes to Sweden when they say that the Swedish Parliament requested the Government in May to ban so called "sneak advertising". They were surprised over how incorrect information like this can be included in a Government bill. I expressed a wish that they would correct this information when talking with their contacts within the Finnish Conservative Party.

They were equally surprised over the Finnish Government's motivations saying that juveniles under 16 smoke more in Finland than in any other European country - this despite the very tough tobacco law, including a total ad ban since 1977.

Finally I suggested that we could prepare a draft Tobacco Act amendment based on the Parliament's opinion in May, which they then could have a look at and review to see whether it coincides with their viewpoints, which clearly is very anti-regulatory. This Mr. Tiedemann found this to be a very good idea. He expressed his wish that we could come with our input a.s.a.p. - I've tried to reach Peder today but with no luck.

Best Regards

Johan

cc: AANDRADE--VCH0021A Anthony Andrade
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